

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claim 2-5, 7, 10, and 12 were previously canceled.

Claims 20 and 22 have been canceled herein.

Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 19, and 21 have been amended.

Support for the amendment of Claims 1, 6, 8, 11, 13, 19, and 21 is provided by corresponding claims as previously presented.

No new matter has been added by the present amendment.

REMARKS

Claims 1, 6, 8, 9, 11, 12, and 15-28 are pending in the present application.

The objections to Claims 1 and 8 are obviated by amendment.

Applicants have made the amendment suggested by the Examiner. Thus, these criticisms are believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1, 6, and 8 under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph, is obviated by amendment.

Applicants have made the amendment suggested by the Examiner. Thus, this criticism is believed to be moot.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

The rejection of Claims 1, 9, 11, 13, 14, 20, 22-24, 26, and 28 under 35 U.S.C. §112, first paragraph (enablement), is obviated by amendment.

Applicants make no statement with respect to the propriety of these grounds of rejection and in no way acquiesce to the same. Nonetheless, to expedite examination, Applicants have amended the claims to delete the paragraphs related to homologs obtained via hybridization.

Withdrawal of this ground of rejection is requested.

Finally, on page 2 of the Office Action mailed June 1, 2007, the Examiner acknowledges receipt of Applicants' certified English translations of JP 2002-218958 filed on July 26, 2002. However, the Examiner indicates that "priority of the instant claims to JP 2002-218958, filed on 07/26/2002, has not been granted." Applicants submit that this allegation appears to be a misstatement by the Examiner and that this section should have indicated that "priority *has been* granted." Otherwise, Applicants respectfully request that the Examiner provide an explanation as to why the claims of the present application are not entitled to the priority of JP 2002-218958. Applicants request clarification in the next action from the Office.

Applicants submit that the present application is in condition for allowance. Early notification to this effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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